

## REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1 and 2 are pending.

Claim 2 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 101 and 112.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soulanille in view of Padden. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Soulanille describes debiting a prepaid account, see Soulanille at paragraphs [0044], [0054], and [0066]-[0067], for example, which is not the same as a business process that “comprises a hierarchical multi-step automated process that includes two or more component processes performed in series, a first component process of which is configured to process data comprising a set of transaction data encapsulated as a package; repackage the transaction data, including context data associated with the first component process; and send the repackage transaction and context data to a next component process,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

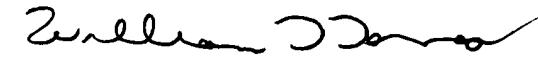
Regarding claim 2, debiting a prepaid account as taught by Soulanille is not the same as adding “successive transaction contexts to the transaction container in such a way that the sequence of initial state, desired operation, input parameters and resulting state fully describes each step of the multi-step distributed transaction,” as recited in claim 2. Therefore, claim 2 is believed to be allowable.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6-20-08



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